GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:179
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
CRASH IN PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe crash in prices of agricultural output this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the rise in agricultural input cost has adversely affected the interest of all sections among the peasantry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. Table given below showing monthly Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 1993-94=100) for agricultural commodities during the period January to September, 2008, indicates this:

2008									
Commodities	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
All Commodities	218.1	219.9	225.5	228.5	231.1	236.6	240	240.7	241.0
Primary Article	224.6	230.6	235.9	238.6	241.9	243.9	248.7	249.3	251.5
Food grains	217.7	219.1	222.3	223.9	222.8	223.8	228.2	228.5	229.9
Cereals	215.7	217.2	219.2	220.9	220.2	221.1	224.7	223.8	225.0
Rice	195.5	196.8	198.9	201.7	200.8	200.7	203.1	203.2	202.9
Wheat	231.4	232.6	233.4	233.4	232.6	233.8	240.8	235.8	241.7
Pulses	232.1	232.8	244.8	246.4	241.7	243.9	253.3	263.2	266.2
Oilseeds	225.6	235.4	244.5	240.6	244.1	255.5	259.8	255.2	249.9
Edible Oil	182.4	186.8	196.2	188.9	186.6	197.7	201.3	196.0	192.1

(c)&(d): Cost of production for major crops like wheat has increased marginally from Rs.573.58 per quintal in 2006-07 to Rs.624.46 per quintal in 2007-08. The cost of production for paddy also has increased marginally from Rs.594.63 per quintal in 2007-08 to Rs.618.76 per quintal in 2008-09. The Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major crops, so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce.